



# City of Loma Linda Official Report

Floyd Petersen, Mayor  
Stan Brauer, Mayor pro tempore  
Robert Christman, Councilmember  
Robert Ziprick, Councilmember  
Charles Umeda, Councilmember

COUNCIL AGENDA: February 14, 2006  
TO: City Council  
VIA: Dennis R. Halloway, City Manager  
FROM: Michael Norris, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: United States Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council approve the appropriation and expenditure of \$2,020.00 for the City's 10% share of the costs in the grant program.

## **BACKGROUND**

FEMA annually makes grants available to fire departments for the purpose of enhancing the ability of said departments to protect the health and safety of the public as well as that of firefighting personnel facing fire and other hazards. These grants are awarded on a competitive basis to eligible applicants that most closely address the program's priorities, demonstrate financial need, and which can maximize the benefits derived from the grant funds.

Fire departments protecting a fixed population of less than 50,000 people have to match the Federal grant funds with an amount of non-federal funds equal to 10% of the total project cost.

The City of Loma Linda was notified on January 15, 2006 that it was awarded Grant # EMW-2995-FG-18435 for a total of \$20,200. The Federal share is 90% or 18,180.00 of the approved amount and the City's share is 10% or \$2,020.00.

## **ANALYSIS**

In 2005, the USFA allowed fire departments to submit applications in two program areas:

1. Operations and Firefighter Safety Program
2. Firefighting Vehicle Acquisition Program

Since the USFA has determined that they will primarily award vehicles to those departments who own few or no vehicles, LLFD staff determined that it would be best to pursue program option #1, Operations and Firefighter Safety.

Under the operations subheading, the Department applied for a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) which uses infrared technology to help firefighters and rescue workers "see" through smoke, darkness, fog, dense vegetation, fire and walls to find people and fire sources. A common use for TIC's is to quickly and easily locate a fire's origin without causing unnecessary damage. TIC's can reduce the time firefighters spend searching a building for victims from 15 to as little as two minutes. [Source: National Fire Protection Association]. The cost for these cameras is approximately \$10,000.

Secondly, to address firefighter safety, the Department applied for a Wellness and Fitness program to include periodic physical exam/health screening and exercise equipment. The purpose of this aspect of the grant is to enhance the health of LLFD's personnel. Over 50% of line of duty deaths for firefighters is due to cardiovascular disease. LLFD's goal is to prevent this from occurring to our staff. The health screenings for 32 firefighters are estimated to cost \$3,200. \$7,000 is allotted to replace second-hand, 20-year-old exercise equipment in the fire station which has been rehabilitated two times at approximately \$500 each time. The current equipment will be replaced with a six-position multi-station apparatus that utilizes up to date strength conditioning technology. The total of the equipment and wellness program is \$10,200.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Environmental issues do not pertain.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The financial impact to the City of Loma Linda for the 10% share of the grant is \$2,020.00.